

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

UNCLAS STATE 262427

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, CGEN, PINT

SUBJECT:REPORTED SUSPENSION OF METHODIST CHURCH ACTIVITIES
IN KIVU

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY CHARLES KIRKPATRICK, SECRETARY OF THE GENERAL MISSIONARY BOARD OF THE METHODIST CHURCH OF INDIANA, REQUESTING FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT A FRAGMENTARY REPORT HE RECEIVED FROM HIS ADMIN ASSISTANT IN BUJUMBURA. FREE METHODIST CHURCH OF BUKAVU REPORTEDLY INFORMED THAT, AS OF OCTOBER 31, IT IS TO DISCONTINUE BUILDING A HOSPITAL IN THE KIVU AREA. THE REASON GIVEN IS THAT THE CHURCH IS NOT MAKING A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY OF THE COUNTRY. IT IS FURTHER REPORTED THAT REV. GERALD BATES, NORMALLY STATIONED IN BUKAVU AND NOW VISITING BUJUMBURA, HAS BEEN REFUSED READMITTANCE TO ZAIRE. KIRKPATRICK POINTED OUT THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAD SIGNED THE CHURCH'S CHARTER OVER A YEAR AGO AND THAT CHURCH HAS THUS FAR INVESTED 100,000 DOLLARS IN 500,000 DOLLAR HOSPITAL PROJECT.

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2. FOR ALL ADDRESSEES: PLEASE PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION YOU MAY HAVE RELEVANT TO KIRKPATRICK'S REPORT. FOR KINSHASA AND BUKAVU: PLEASE COMMENT ALSO ON WELFARE OF AMERICAN MISSIONARY MEMBERS OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH. RELATIVES

OF SEVERAL OF THEM HAVE CALLED DEPARTMENT TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT THEIR SAFETY. WE HAVE OFFERED STANDARD REASSURANCES BUT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE. KISSINGER

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To: KINSHASA BUJUMBURA
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